

File-Term Studies

Tumor Studies and WHO

This is a brief proposed report
~~concerning the idea~~ ^{submitted} ~~in~~
~~response to you of 6/31/72~~ concerning
the idea of developing a means of
collaborating with the World Health
Organization in the sponsorship of
twin studies in various parts of the
world. I made the suggestion in a
memorandum to you dated June 21, 1972,
and you advised me to follow up.

Our September 12 in Geneva I met with the Director of the Human Genetics Unit of WHO.

After some investigation, I learned that the Director of the Human Genetics Unit of WHO was the person who was most likely to entertain the idea. Following some preliminary correspondence, I arranged to meet with him in Geneva on September 12.

He told me he thought the ~~idea~~
of studying ^{of} twins of varied races,
environments and smoking habits would
be an excellent activity for WHO and
would be likely to yield valuable
data concerning the effects of genetic
and racial background and environmental

exposure on illness and death rates.

He said, in his opinion, WHO would be delighted to coordinate such a study. The major obstacle in getting it underway is money.

~~He said~~ At my suggestion, he had developed some tentative plans and a rough cost estimate.

He ~~is~~ would like to establish twin studies in 15 countries with at least 500 twin pairs in each country. Existing twin registries could be used in most cases. The ~~investigation~~ would be cost of supporting the work would be around \$150,000. a year.

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